

# Barkly Regional Deal



## Governance Table Meeting 26

Thursday 21 November 2024

Barkly Business Hub, Peko Road, Tennant Creek



Item	Description and discussion points	Actions	Decisions
1.1	<p><b>Attendees:</b> Attendees: Independent Chair, Mr Sean Gordon AM, Deb Hartman EO Backbone Ms Pat Brahim (ACLG) Kym Brahim, Shalee James (Patta) Tom Archbold Manning (NTG), Georgina Bracken (BCN), Chris Kelly (BRC), Darrin Whatley (Chamber of Commerce), Byron Matthews (NIAA), Valerie Nelson, Graham Calma, Mervyn Franey, Dawn Swan (BAA), Soana Vaihu, ONLINE: Lisa Rauter (Infrastructure), Mischa Cartwright CLC, Marnie Wettenhall (in an out) (DSS)</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Claire Keen (BCN), Tony Miles (ACLG)</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Debra Lyons, Esther Kami, Nalarni Paterson (Tennant Creek High School), <b>Apologies:</b> Gerard Coffey (Julalikari), Carla Loodewijk (DSS)</p> <p><b>Welcome and farewells to members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Archbold Manning (NTG)- Soana will no longer be an NTG rep at the table. Sean acknowledged her valuable contribution to the Regional Deal work.</li> </ul> <p><b>Acknowledgement by Kym Brahim</b></p> <p><b>Truth Telling by Pat Brahim</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pat talked about the impacts on Warumungu people of the colonial history of Tennant Creek and surrounds. She told parts of her family history and spoke of the pain and disempowerment she has experienced. She spoke of frustrations around government cycles and the lack of real action and positive change for people in the Barkly, particularly given the reason why the Deal came about in the first place. Pat feels the focus is still too much on infrastructure and we are not seeing change for the people. Pat also expressed disappointment and hurt that the significant truth telling that she shared at the Barkly Futures Forum dinner at the Telegraph Station was not acknowledged in reports of the event. She wants us to learn from this mistake and show more respect for these local stories and contributions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Affirmation of vision and ways of working and a discussion about challenges and opportunities of the Deal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean reflected on the opportunities still available through the Barkly Regional Deal and the need for all parts of the community to lean in and take action. He sees the infrastructure projects and the Governance Review as an opportunity to bring people to the Table. How do we create a structure that is representative of the Barkly?</li> <li>Community members described barriers to the community being more involved, for example, the community is still not a signatory to the Deal and Native Title holders originally only had one seat at the Table. There has been too much talk and not enough action for community to want to engage.</li> </ul>	<p>Welcome letter to new members and BBT add them to GT contact list.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean asked Govt partners to respond to what had been shared and each acknowledged points raised and indicated support for renewed community-led structures</li> <li>BAA members reflected on their role in the Deal and some truth-telling about experiences of Aboriginal people and the impacts of the recent changes by the NTG in youth justice laws.</li> </ul>		
1.2	Confirm previous meeting's minutes <b>For acceptance</b>		Accepted
1.3	Correspondence <b>For noting</b>		Noted
1.4	Declaration of any conflicts of interest <i>for current agenda items</i> <b>For declaration and decision</b>		No conflicts declared
1.5	<p>Traffic Light Report and Action Items – TLR <i>progress on initiatives and progress on immediate Action Items</i> <b>For decision and/or noting</b></p> <p>GB proposed motion that the GT endorse the 50% design phase of the Student Boarding Facility, noting finding a Warumungu name. Also recommended that the new Dept of Ed utilise the extensive community consultation and the SBF Working Group in the planning and tender for the operations phase of the SBF. Lachie introduced Tom Archbold Manning who is Regional Executive Director – Southern, Delivery and Regional Priorities, NT Dept of Housing, Local Government and Community Development.</p> <p>Byron provided an update on the New Jobs Trial with 47 jobs filled in the Barkly. Contracts are being extended until June 30. The new program guidelines will come out at the end of 2024. Questions were asked about sustainability of the jobs and the role of the business sector in the program. What if providers don't have funds beyond June 30 where do the individuals go? NIAA anticipates that the existing jobs will continue. BRC described the wrap around supports and upskilling they are providing to support people to hold onto jobs even if the funding runs out.</p>	<p>Backbone to respond to question about the weather radar from TC Local Authority (LA). BRC to invite Backbone to be invited to a TC LA meeting to provide update on BRD initiatives including the weather radar</p> <p>BBT to distribute the soft copy of the New Jobs trial numbers chart with the minutes of the meeting.</p> <p>NIAA will inform the GT members as soon as new guidelines are available and program is open for submissions.</p>	<p>Motion passed to endorse the 50% design milestone for the Student Boarding Facility. Noted that naming consultations will occur by the end of 2024.</p> <p>Motion passed that the new Dept of Ed and Training utilise the extensive community consultation and the SBF Working Group in the planning and tender for the operations phase of the SBF.</p>
2.1	Lessons from Local Leadership Models, collaborations and behaviours in other places and programs: (see notes from 'affirmation of vision' section above)		
2.2	Reflection on BRD Case Study - Impact and Outcomes of Youth initiatives: UMEL Coordinator and Community Research Team	PP from presentation to be provided to GT members.	Noted
2.3	Understanding, Measuring, Evaluation and Learning about how we work together as a Governance Group Information about Understanding, Measuring, Evaluation and Learning about implementing the initiatives (process and outcomes) <b>For information and noting</b>	<b>Action:</b> Community Researcher team to continue to report progress and outcomes from this case study, and BBT will send surveys for completion by GT members	Noted
Morning Tea			

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3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Lachlan Wilkins, Mr Thomas Archbold-Manning and others <b>Working Group updates, including change of NT government leads and new departmental responsibilities</b> DCMC submitted a paper outlining the new structure of the Depts <b>For noting</b></li> <li>DITT will no longer be leading Workforce Development initiative</li> <li>Need to discuss lead agencies, structure and membership BEGRWD WG.</li> <li>Depts have been reorganised so they better align with Ministerial responsibilities, Dept heads will report to one minister.</li> <li>Dec 2 new NTG arrangements will fully come into place.</li> <li>Question from community partners about how the NTG is going to engage with the community. For example, COORD can seek and share more information with community partners and have an agreed approach to communication. The NTG intention is to proactively build a relationship with the community.</li> <li>Supporting a Youth WG is on the DCMC agenda via the Ministers' Youth Roundtable. Discussion about the importance of coordinating and consolidating existing groups, not reinventing new groups with the same people.</li> <li>BRC is also looking to create a Youth Council. Discussion about providing support to young people to have pathways to leadership including feeding into Territory and National leadership and skill development.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> DCMC to advise which Dept the First Circles program has gone to</p> <p><b>Action:</b> BBT will provide inductions to all new Government Leads of working groups and new GT members</p> <p><b>BBT will continue to work with Youth and Youth Service Sector to continue coordinated youth decision making, leadership, and engagement in BRD strategies</b></p> <p><b>BBT will liaise with new Government leads re existing working groups and possible changes to them</b></p>	Noted
3.2	<p>Update on Community Mediation and Peacekeeping Initiative Summary by Lachlan Wilkins and Tristan Duggie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership with CJC</li> <li>Early steps of project- meeting with a range of stakeholders</li> <li>Started work in Ali Curung with a community BBQ and conversations about community mediation.</li> <li>First responders workshop was held in TC with good engagement</li> <li>DCMC running a School Engagement and Participation Working Group</li> <li>Recommendation from community partner that the mediation groups could be a vehicle for other messaging eg health</li> <li>GT operating as oversight group for this initiative as the Community Safety and Wellbeing WG has not been established</li> </ul>		Noted
3.3	<p><b>Paper and proposal on operations of Community Centres on CLAs.</b> Gerard Coffee was an apology so the paper was presented for noting only.</p> <p>Discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How service providers like Anyinginyi will utilise the Community Centres</li> <li>What was the original purpose of the centres? E.g. Are they 3 bedroom houses or places for meetings etc</li> <li>Need to clarify the purpose</li> </ul>	<p>BBT to invite Julalikari to next GT meeting to discuss purpose and operation of CLA Community Centres</p> <p><b>Action: BBT to add as an agenda item to GT 27</b></p>	for noting only.

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	For decision and action		
3.4	<p><b>LCPF update on finances and proposed new processes</b>  <b>For decision and action</b> Mr Lachlan Wilkins and Mr Chris Kelly AG, NTG and BRC have been in discussion surrounding the attached agenda item. Once this occurs, a new process of application, assessment and monitoring can be enacted through NTG, and the community Projects Fund can again be open to applications from Barkly Communities. BRC and NTG have committed to reviewing and updating the paper prior to the next GT, hopefully with a resolution to these ongoing issues that will ensure that funds are made available for ongoing projects.</p> <p>The discussion (led by the chair) around the tractors suggested that the either the AG or NTG consider funding the missing tractors while the BRC legal proceedings are being finalised to ensure the communities don't miss out. Any return of funds realised from the legal proceeding would then be returned into the LCPF funds for subsequent projects.</p> <p>The discussion (led by the chair) around the bus suggested that the funds could be released from NTG to purchase the bus and that this could be completed through a grant process from BRC.</p> <p>Four tractors were discussed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity of the tractor contracts and maintenance and legal requirement is needed.</li> <li>• Some tractors still haven't been delivered</li> <li>• Ali Curung bus still not delivered</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> BBT to include note about outstanding LCPF projects including tractors, skidloader, bus and community plans</p> <p><b>Action BBT to add the paper as an agenda item to GT 27</b></p> <p><b>Action: AG and NTG to make decision on this funding of tractors not yet delivered.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> BBT to discuss tractor contract with Wakurlpu</p> <p><b>Action:</b> BRC and NTG to meet and address funding (for whole fund) and contracting issues (specifically for bus) and provide update at next GT</p> <p><b>Action:</b> NTG and BRC available to meet with applicants to explain delays</p>	
	<p><b>BBT auspice arrangements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceived conflict of interest noted for Tom- one potential auspice arrangement is a statutory body that comes under his Dept</li> <li>• Anglicare, NTCOSS, Desert Knowledge the 3 candidates</li> <li>• Anglicare and Desert Knowledge presented their proposals to the Admin Group</li> <li>• Anglicare voted as the prepared provider due to strong resources, not service providers in the Barkly</li> <li>• Seeking GT endorsement of choice</li> <li>• Seeking approval for BBT and BRC to begin handover process</li> <li>• Wording to be changed to 'auspice the Barkly BBT' from 'auspice the activities' of the BBT</li> <li>• Comment that Anglicare is a mainstream org (Anglicare NT) and not a place-based org - a shame we do not have local org</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> BBT EO to communicate with Anglicare and Desert Knowledge about GT decision. BBT EO, BM and BRC to organise transition arrangements with Anglicare.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Alliance to provide update on their auspice arrangement at next GT meeting</p>	<p><b>Decision:</b> Members endorsed Anglicare as the new auspice body for the Barkly Backbone Team</p> <p>(BRC abstained from voting, NTG and Cwth abstained from Rec 4.)</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anglicare has signed to APONT partnership principles and supports building capability of Aboriginal orgs</li> <li>• Clarity needed about Anglicare not having influence over Backbone activities/principles etc</li> <li>• Alliance to pursue their auspice arrangement at the same time</li> </ul>		
3.6	<p><b>Update on BRD Governance Review</b> For information and noting Ms Lisa Rauter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C'wth commitment to Review</li> <li>• NTG commitment to Review</li> <li>• Delay with new NTG Govt needing to settle into new arrangements</li> </ul> <p>Tom Archbold Manning conveyed NTG's ongoing commitment to a Governance Review of the BRD. Noted that the scope of any review had to be fit with budget allocated to it. Suggestions made to broaden the membership of the Steering Committee for the implementation phase. Implementation of TOR for Review to focus on three pillars: delivery, governance and representation.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Sean Gordon and BBT EO to introduce Govt partners to Review Steering Committee</p> <p><b>Action:</b> C'wth Infra and NTG to discuss scope and funding of the review with the Review Steering group before end of year</p> <p><b>Action:</b> C'wth Infra to present proposed scope of Review at Feb GT</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Ongoing Secretariat for the Review Committee to be decided</p>	
	Lunch		
4.1	<p>EO BBT Report, including Governance Table Guidelines, MOU with Access to Justice, membership of Infrastructure Australia, NT. Ms Deb Hartman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deb thanked BRD for preparing regular, financial BBT reports</li> <li>• Retrospective BBT payments by Govt partners is not effective. Funding through new auspice arrangement need to be upfront.</li> <li>• Request that Govt partners work out how to pay BBT before activity period</li> <li>• This issue has been raised by BBT EO at several meetings</li> <li>• BRC noted that Govt partners are having those conversations at the moment</li> <li>• Challenges including that Federal Govt can't pay directly to BRC were discussed</li> <li>• Suggestion that five-year funding be considered for future BBT contracts</li> <li>• New arrangement is an opportunity to streamline the funding processes</li> </ul> <p>Discussion about the Handbook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBT EO recommended that members endorse Handbook for clarity about roles and agreed expectations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> 3 tiers of Gov resolve ways of funding the BRD so that funding arrangements can be streamlined and operations can be funded upfront for efficient delivery of the activities.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> BBT EO to work with members to update the Handbook with</p>	<p><b>Decision:</b> Endorsement of the GT Handbook to be postponed until after the Review</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 8 of GT Handbook could better clarify the ways in which GT members can influence decisions and change issues like this</li> <li>Members suggested that wording of Handbook could be more specific and for example include ways Aboriginal members have come on later</li> <li>Should we make changes to the Handbook now or wait for the Review?</li> <li>Remove members' names in the Handbook as they change frequently</li> <li>Should Alliance partnership declaration still be included in the Handbook considering they are now their own entity? See pp 19-24.</li> <li>It was relevant earlier to keep the need for a regional voice in view, but not now. No need to focus on the Alliance more than other sectors</li> <li>How do we use the handbook to reflect and support the GT to be a real and appropriate governance body for the Barkly</li> </ul>	<p>members' suggested changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add history of community partners joining the table in front narrative</li> <li>Remove attachment a and b,</li> <li>Remove members' names</li> <li>More clearly define the roles and responsibilities of GT members</li> </ul>	
4.2	<p>BAAC Report Mr Merv Franey Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Alliance Directors' meeting held Nov 20</li> <li>Discussion with Land Councils about the HIPP program</li> <li>Membership has increased to more than 50</li> <li>Alliance committed to collaborating with other services to improve outcomes in the Barkly</li> <li>Self Determination needs to be explicit in Alliance MoU and partnership agreements eg with their new auspice arrangement</li> <li>Suggestion that small Native Title Holders across the Barkly are included in the BAA work. Names and locations could be provided by CLC/NLC</li> </ul>		Noted
4.3	<p>GT Chair arrangements for 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean submitted a paper about next steps to the meeting.</li> <li>Sean is stepping down and reflected on his time in the role and acknowledged the partners' recognition of the need to make changes at that time</li> <li>Sean's paper recommends a shift to a local chair or co-chairs through an EOI process</li> <li>Future investment opportunities, IDAC, Justice Reinvestment, Sean is Chair of PLACE</li> <li>Sean described his work in other governance structures (e.g. Empowered Communities) and is happy to support GT members with learnings about place-based governance structures</li> <li>Reinforced the unique opportunity of this arrangement having the three levels of Govt at the GT</li> <li>Suggested we defend what we have, and make it work for the community</li> <li>Govt partners comfortable to support the shift as long as community partners endorse the process and the person.</li> <li>Members expressed gratitude to Sean for his work, the inspiration, direction, focus, passion and leadership he</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> BBT EO to draft an EOI for Local GT Chair role</p>	<p>Members accepted Sean Gordon's paper and recommendations re local Chair of GT.</p>



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	has brought to Barkly and the sensitivity and respect he has brought to working in this country.		
5.1	Review of agreed actions and motions arising from general business Communique topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Mediation Update</li> <li>• Crisis Youth Accommodation moves forward with Youth Case Study</li> <li>• NTG Commitment to the Review and next steps</li> <li>• Change in BBT auspice arrangement</li> <li>• Farewell to Sean Gordon</li> <li>• Youth Centre effectiveness</li> </ul>		
5.2	2025 proposed meeting schedule (6 March, 5 June, 4 Sept, 20 Nov)		
5.3	GT Annual Awards – for celebration and fun	Action: BBT to send certificates to absent members	
5.4	Photo and Annual breakup toast Meeting Close		

Morning Tea – 10:30 am to 11:00 am

Lunch – 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Close - 3.30 pm